

## DOCKERY AT THE LOWEST DEPTH.

It has long been the boast in our Southern land that we did not fear men or slander women; that with us a woman's fair fame was a sacred thing. But what shall we say to see a man born upon our own soil, as was his father before him, having enjoyed all the educational and social advantages that wealth and high social position could give him, bred to the bar and for a time a practitioner there, a prominent member of the Old Line Whig party, embracing as it did so many men of the highest rank intellectually, morally and in every other way, a prominent representative of that party in the Legislature, and, in a word, for near forty years connected in every way with the best people in the State; what shall be thought, we say, when from the lips of such a man is heard a vile slander of an honest, respectable woman?

It is a shameful case indeed; but we must make up our minds what to say about it, for it is just the case now before us, as Oliver H. Dockery, Radical candidate for Governor, is the slanderer and Mrs. Cleveland, wife of the President of the United States, is the slandered woman. It matters not, however, whether the slandered woman be the wife of the President or the wife of the humblest citizen in the land, provided only she is honest and reputable, and this no man who knows her, of whatever political creed, will deny Mrs. Cleveland to be.

But to the slander.

Colonel Oliver H. Dockery, Radical candidate for Governor, in his public speeches charges that Mrs. Cleveland, a reputable white woman, so far debases and degrades herself as to "kiss negro wenches." Now be it known, lest it be supposed otherwise, that Dockery is a white man, a Southern-born white man, a born North Carolinian, we are especially ashamed to say, who understands fully the vile reproach involved in the charge to which he thus gives the sanction of his name. No man better than this same Dockery understands the odium and infamy involved in the statement for which he has thus become sponsor and to which he thus gives currency, to-wit: that a reputable white woman is given to kissing negro wenches, a charge that, if true, would shut in her face every respectable white door in the State. We say Colonel Dockery understands fully the force of the vile calumny he is circulating, for in his own antipathy to negroes he went so far when in the Legislature as to favor driving every free negro from the State, or forcing him to become a slave. No negro, he thought, was fit for anything but slavery.

What, then, shall we say about it? For one, we say he ought to be disowned by every white man, woman and child in North Carolina, and, like Stanton and the writers and other signers of the horrible Legislative Address, consigned to everlasting infamy. With such men he has made his bed, and upon it he must lie.

But what a warning all this ought to be to any one thinking about joining the Radical party! If Dockery, with all his social, educational and other advantages, be brought to this low, dirty level by his association with his negro and other Radical allies, what can other men hope for? If a man with Dockery's antecedents is brought to open slander of an honest woman, what may be expected of any other man who goes into the Radical ranks? Can any man touch pitch and not be defiled? Can any man become a Radical and not be dirty? Alas, poor dirty Dockery; how you have fallen from your former high estate!

And this is the man who is parading himself before the farmers of the State as a farmer of farmers and their special champion and friend! What say you, ye white men, farmers of North Carolina; will you own him? We think not.

And this is the man who is going about over the State asking white men to make him their Governor, their chief magistrate! What say you, ye white voters of North Carolina, who have wives or daughters or sisters or mothers; will you vote for him? In God's name, no, say we.

If the wife of the chief magistrate of this great country cannot escape the slimy drippings from unclean lips what woman in all the land is safe! And Colonel Dockery says Mrs. Cleveland kisses negro wenches, with all the vile words imply! Think of all this when you go to the polls, fellow-citizens!